

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 6th, 2020

A present majority of currently represented voting member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Chair				
Chair (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Departmental Rep.				
Dept. of Agriculture	Brian Rennecker		x	
	Kristi Jones			X
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	Wendy Bell		x	
Environmental Protection Agency	Christine Davis		x	
Dept. of Natural Resources	Steve Altman		x	
Dept. of Transportation	Thomas Brooks		x	
Misc. Rep.				
National Great River Research and Education Center	Ted Kratschmer		x	
Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Stephen Fulling		x	
Community & Nonprofit Rep.				
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Doug Blodgett			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Danielle Anderson			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Matthew Stafford		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Darren Melvin			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Allen LaPointe		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Nani Bhowmik		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Konstantine "Dean" Alon-is-tio-tis			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Jason McNeill			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Tyrone Coleman			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Gordon Tucker			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Lindsay Keeney		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Brett Stawar			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Wendell Shauman		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Pending			
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Ex-Officio (non-voting member)				
Ex-Officio (non-member)	Pending			
Guest (non-member)				
Guest	Nicole Saulsberry		x	
Guest	Paul Rhode		x	
Guest	Emily Jenkins			X
Guest	Anna-Lisa Castle		x	
Guest	Robert Sinkler		x	
Guest	Patrick McGinnis			X
Guest	Fawn Pochel			X
Guest	Bradford Kasberg		x	
Guest	Laura Keefer			X
Guest	Lauren Lurkins		x	
Lt. Governor's Staff (non-member)				
N/A	Charles Watkins		x	
N/A	Dartesia Pitts			X
N/A	Robert Mannis		x	
N/A	Narciso Perez		x	
N/A	Levi Bain			X

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 9:32AM.

- II. Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, and Approval of Minutes from 02.11.19**
 - a. Roll call
 - i. Quorum established.

 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Moved by Ted Kratschmer;
 - ii. Seconded by Allen LaPointe;
 - iii. All in favor;
 - iv. No opposition;
 - v. No abstentions.

 - c. Approval of Minutes from 02.11.19
 - i. Moved by Christine Davis;
 - ii. Seconded by Thomas Brooks;
 - iii. All in favor;
 - iv. No opposition;
 - v. No abstentions.

- III. Chairperson's Remarks**
 - a. **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - i. Thanks everyone on the front line for the work they're doing around to assist the State of Illinois during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- ii. Outlines the round robin portion of new business, in which members discuss how COVID-19 has impacted, and continues to impact, the environmental work they're engaged in.

IV. New Business

a. Round Robin

- i. Not all individuals present at the meeting participated. Participating individuals included those enumerated below. Additionally, only those updates directly relevant to the work of the council is detailed below; other updates were documented for awareness of the Office of the Lt. Governor, and follow up where appropriate.

1. Brian Rennecker

2. Wendy Bell

- 3. Christine Davis**

- a. Illinois EPA is running into water quality monitoring issues because no one is allowed to go out to perform quality checks.

4. Steve Altman

5. Thomas Brooks

6. Ted Kratschmer

7. Stephen Fulling

8. Matthew Stafford

9. Allen LaPointe

10. Nani Bhowmik

11. Lindsay Keeney

12. Wendell Shauman

13. Nicole Saulsberry

14. Paul Rohde

- 15. Anna-Lisa Castle**

- a. The Alliance for the Great Lakes (AGL) is switching to a fully remote workplace;

- b. AGL has been able to partner with a number of groups and water utility companies to help maintain clean drinking water;

- c. AGL has seen a lot of powerful and necessary partnerships occurring in the environmental space.

16. Robert Sinkler

17. Bradford Kasberg

- 18. Lauren Lurkins**

- a. The Illinois State Water Survey's research into nutrient and sediment monitoring has been put on hold, but efforts are being made to explore the possibility of resuming fieldwork safely.

b. Review and Discuss the strategic Report

i. **Robert Mannis**

1. "The Office of the Lt. Governor is looking to make sure the recommendations are as accurate as possible to the problems we're facing now, including issues we're seeing around COVID. I want to focus on recommendations and see if there are any modifications you all would like to see. On page 8, you can see the recommendations."
2. Recommendations for the Asian Carp and Other Invasive Species Committee read out loud and a request for feedback was made.

- a. **Anna-Lisa Castle**

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- i. “One thing I want to point out is the potential job creation opportunities around structural projects in removing Asian carp from Illinois.”
 1. **Robert Mannis**
 - a. “We can include facts or figures in the strategic report around this.”
 2. **Robert Sinkler**
 - a. “There is a good amount of data on this to include.”
3. Recommendations for the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee read out loud and a request for feedback was made.
 - a. **Paul Rohde**
 - i. “There’s no mention in here of locks and dams; Illinois has 27. A recommendation around federal funding for the locks and dams in Illinois should be added.”
 - b. **Nicole Saulsberry**
 - i. From what I understand, flooding is going to get worse in Illinois. Perhaps we can fit something around access to funding to address flooding into a recommendation, at least as it relates to those communities that are prone to flooding.
 1. **Steve Altman**
 - a. We have some stuff on funding regarding flooding. We work with IEMA. They have access to federal money and have a few aid-based programs.
4. Recommendations for the Conservation and Environment Committee read out loud and a request for feedback was made.
 - a. **Nani Bhowmik**
 - i. “In the beginning of this section, we should add some info on Water Surveys.”
 1. **Laura Keefer**
 - a. “Nani and I can be in touch about relevant information.”
 - b. **Anna-Lisa**
 - i. “Access to clean drinking water and access to clean water are two different matters. They should not be wrapped up in the same recommendation if we want to remain intentional about addressing the issues particular to each matter. I can help send along language to clarify the two different issue areas.”
- ii. Lt. Governor Stratton entertained a motion to accept the report in principle with consideration to be made to those suggestions raised in this meeting
 1. Moved by Nani Bhowmik;
 2. Seconded by Allen LaPointe;
 3. All in favor;
 4. No opposition;
 5. No abstentions.

V. Member Updates

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a. Christine Davis

- i. "I'm concerned about the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. I'm hoping your staff can look into the funding for these districts being released as they've struggled for the past 6-7 years with receiving regular payments of funds. As I understand, it's now at the point that if these districts don't receive their funds, then some folks working for these districts may not be able to return to work."

1. Lt. Governor Stratton

- a. "I will have my staff look into this and provide you with an update."

VI. Public Comments

- a. No public comments.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Lt. Governor Stratton at 10:47AM;
- b. Seconded by Wendell Shauman;
- c. All in favor;
- d. No opposition;
- e. No abstentions.